how they could be remedied. We hope that something will be done in this matter by the Government of India as early as possible."

K. T. M. AHAMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" Have this Government received any concrete proposal from the Government of India so far? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" There is no question of the Central Government making any concrete proposals to the Provincial Government. Export to other countries is a subject which is dealt with by the Central Government. This Government have made the necessary representations. I hope the Central Government will formulate their plan very soon to help the suffering people."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Is it a fact that the wholesalers are not distributing equitably to the retailers? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I have not heard any such complaint. If my hon. Friend has any complaint with him, I should like him to pass it on to me so that I may make an enquiry."

SRI N. VENKATACHALAMAJI :—" Is it not a fact that unstamped cloth is cheaper than stamped cloth? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" I am glad that there is cheaper cloth available, as it is for the good of the consumers."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have issued instructions to the Collectors that in the selection of licensees, they should give preference to former licensees with a clean record? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" Yes."

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I know whether the Government have received any complaint that old licensees with a good record have not been chosen in some cases, while those who have never been in the trade have been chosen? "

THE HON. SRI H. SITARAMA REDDI :—" There have been some complaints to that effect. We call for reports from the Collectors and examine the complaints in the light of such reports. We are trying to redress the grievance as far as possible and see that there is a just and equitable distribution of licences by the Collectors."

Population of this Province.

* 196 Q.—SRI S. B. ADITYAN : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state—

(*a*) what is the estimated population of this Province for the mid-year in 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948;

(*b*) the percentage increase in each year;

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(*c*) whether the Government have taken the increasing population into consideration in planning food production, house-building and cloth production;

(*d*) (i) whether, in any district, the birth-rate was below the death-rate, in any of the above years, (ii) if so, the particulars, and (iii) the reasons; and

(*e*) whether the Government have taken any, and what steps for the next census?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier) :—(*a*) & (*b*) A census of the population is taken once in ten years by the Government of India, and the last census was taken in 1941. No mid-year estimates of population for the years 1945, 1946, 1947 and 1948 can be given with any degree of accuracy. For purposes of the estimate of the population in connexion with the registration of voters on the basis of adult franchise, it has been assumed as usual, that there will be *approximately* an increase of population, *each* year, at the rate of 1 per cent of the population in 1941. Based on this method of calculation, the following are the figures for the respective years :—

Mid-year of 1945	51,947,285
Mid-year of 1946	52,446,778
Mid-year of 1947	52,946,271
Mid-year of 1948	53,445,764

The figures given above are the estimates for the Madras Presidency including Pudukkottai and Banganapalle and excluding Sandur—a small area with a population of about 16,000.

" (*c*) The answer is in the affirmative, except in respect of cloth production which is controlled by the Government of India.

" (*d*) (i) Yes, only in Tanjore district in 1945. The figures for 1948 are not yet available.

(ii) Tanjore district—1945—The registered rates were—

Birth-rate	24·43
Death-rate	26·97

(iii) Increased deaths from smallpox, fevers and respiratory diseases.

" (*e*) Census is a Central subject. The next census is due only in 1951. The Government of India will take the necessary steps in this regard in time. This Government have numbered all the houses in the Province as a preliminary step in connexion with the preparation of electoral rolls, and this numbering will also serve the purposes of the census."

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SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" In calculating the figures given in the answer, may I know whether the influx of refugees from Malaya and Burma has been taken into account? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The refugees have not been taken into account. But I am sure their number is not so large as to make any great variation in the figures."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" Is it a fact that the population of this Province is increasing at a greater pace than that at which houses are being built? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is quite possible. We have not got sufficient houses even as it is. With a higher rate of increase, the position will become more acute."

DR. V. K. JOHN :—" Has food control resulted in birth control? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Birth control depends upon so many factors and certainly food is one of them. I need not go into the other factors now."

MR. PRESIDENT :—" I think it is generally accepted that food control results in more births."

SRI S. B. ADITYAN :—" In Tanjore district, the death-rate is higher than the birth-rate. May I know what steps the Government have taken to check this trend? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" The increased death-rate is due to epidemics like cholera and particularly small-pox. The Government are taking the usual measures for improving public health and for combating epidemics. We do not see what else can be done in the matter."

Communal rotation in the appointments in services.

* 197 Q.—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO : Will the Hon. the Premier be pleased to state with reference to answer to unstarred question No. 8 answered on the 13th August 1948—

(*a*) the service or services in respect of which communal rotation is in force in regard to (i) initial recruitment and (ii) promotions;

(*b*) whether the Government are insisting on the observance of communal representation in regard to promotion from non-gazetted rank to gazetted rank in any or all the services; and

(*c*) whether the Government have recently ordered the application of communal representation in regard to appointment of members of the Madras Executive Service (Deputy Collectors)?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN (on behalf of the Hon. the Premier) :—" (*a*) & (*b*) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to general rule 19 of the Madras Provincial and Subordinate Services which was placed on the table of the House in answer to Legislative Council Question No. 32 on 13th August 1948. General rule 19 (*a*) is known as ' Communal rotation ' rule and general rule 19 (*b*) is known as